NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

May 10, 1973

RESEARCH DIVISION

Welcome to Dr. Wayne Loescher, our new staff member (Plant Physiologist) at the Research Division, starting May 1st. Dr. Loescher is filling the biologist position vacated by Bob Gonderman's retirement last December. He was born in Lima, Ohio and finished his doctor's degree in plant physiology and bio-chemistry at Iowa State University in 1971. He was selected from among sixteen applicants for the biologist position due to his experience and interest in plant cell development and plant tissue culture. Following his graduation he worked for two years as a post-doctorate research fellow at Iowa State on a project to obtain a hybrid between corn and sorghum. His major duty here will be the study of vegetative propagation of difficult-to-root ornamental woody species. Emphasis will be on the improvement of tissue culture techniques on woody species, not only for the purpose of facilitating the problem of vegetative propagation but also in the hope of broadening the genetic manipulation of ornamental woody plants. Dr. Loescher is married; his wife, Judith, has a doctor's degree in phycology (study of algae).

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Work has resumed at the new Information Center, although progress seems to be slow.

Meadowbrook is also the site of further construction. The automatic water system is now being installed and two additional bridges are under construction and will soon be in place.

Thanks are due the entire staff for helping to make the AABGA conference a smashing success. Comments from visiting dignitaries were most complimentary.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE DIVISION

We would like to welcome Mary Dentis back to the Business Office to help out in the absence of Pat Jacklen who is still at home recuperating from neck and back problems.

A big thank you to Dan Addis and Ray Ramos for the beautiful flowers for the girls in the office.

The Girls' softball team has conceded the fact that the men are stronger players.

Thank you to all new members of AID and if you have not yet become a member please do not hesitate to come in for information on how to join.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

This is to remind everyone that from now until Sunday, October 28th, our summertime hours (all gardens) are 8 to 5:30 daily.

After six years of fine service to the Department during which he rose to the position of Head Tour Guide, Bob Copper is leaving on May 15th to return to school. He and his wife, Elizabeth, will attend U. C. Riverside full time, taking courses that will lead them both to doctorates in zoology. Our best wishes to them.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

We wish Joe Mendoza a speedy and complete recovery from his second knee operation.

Congratulations to Dan Pinney, Herb Woodworth, Dan Montoya, Dennis Bern, Tony Gonzalez, Dave Acuna, Steve Blum, and Mike Schary for their fine efforts on the Gardener exam.

April 9th marked the first birthday of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society's service in the South Bay communities. Happy Birthday! And congratulations on the quality show given here April 14th-April 15th.

The Palos Verdes Women's Club's "Home Garden Design" tour ended with refreshments in the club house and a tram tour of the garden. This annual tour of selected home gardens in the Palos Verdes area was conducted to raise money for needed equipment at South Coast.

The April 1st South Bay Bromeliad Associates meeting was the group's last regular meeting until July since they have most graciously yielded their meeting dates to upcoming flower shows. Mr. Frank Doerr, guest speaker, gave an informative and enjoyable presentation on "Hybridizing Bromeliads" and highlights of his trip to Florida. Refreshments were served and a door prize was awarded.

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation and Girl Scouts of America co-sponsored a very successful Youth Ecology Fair April 7th-8th. There were more than 60 booths, including a nature art show, educational exhibits, and original ecology exhibits representing many community and youth organizations. Official proclamations commending the effort were received from many cities in the South Bay area as well as from Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles and Supervisor James Hayes of Los Angeles County. Nearly 3,000 visitors over the two day Fair kept the tram and tour guides running continually. Our compliments to Mrs. Kirby Davis on the inspiration for and execution of this event.

With the spring migration of the bird population now in progress, April was an especially rewarding month in terms of the number of species observed. Birds sighted on the April 18th walk included: Cinnamon Teal, Great Blue Heron, Costa Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Scrub Jay, American Crow, Loggerhead Shrike, California Quail.

DESCANSO DIVISION

News notes:

The rose garden is coming into full bloom now. We have never seen the flowers so large, many twice as large as in former years.

Through the generosity of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, our tram has been overhauled and converted to propane, resulting in lower and cleaner exhaust emissions.

Bobby Vargas is getting married this weekend. Best of luck to his new bride and to him.

If you want to see a white sparrow come to Descanso Gardens; we have a pair of them here.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Spring vegetable-garden plots in the youth education classes are in full production at all three facilities. Students are taking home the dividends of hard work with grocery bags of kohlrabi, lettuce, chard, and radishes.

Fourteen classes of gifted children of grades 3 to 6 from Arcadia schools have recently participated in two-hour workshops at LASCA. All workshops were pre-planned with the teacher and therefore the children had a thoroughly satisfactory experience. Summer workshops for children will begin on June 18. Approximately 475 students will be registered between the three facilities for the two, 3-week sessions.

Adult Education is scheduling two courses only for the summer. Edible Wild Plants with Dr. Enari and Bonsai, Beginning and Advanced with Ben Suzuki. Both meet on Monday nights, 7-10 P.M., beginning on June 18.